

Mr. Piazza currently serves on the Luzerne County Community College Foundation Board of Directors and the Luzerne County Convention Center and Arena Board of Directors.

His service organization affiliations include the Knights of Columbus where he is a Third Degree Knight, and the Wilkes-Barre Chapter of UNICO, an organization where he once served as president. He is also a charter member of the Kingston Kiwanis Club.

Augie and his wife, Corine, have two children, Jeffrey and Maria.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Piazza on a distinguished career in the field of education. His exceptional record of service and dedication to duty is an inspiration to both his peers and to the students for whom he worked tirelessly to prepare for adult life. Mr. Piazza's contribution to the greater Wyoming Valley community has left a lasting mark and has had a positive effect on improving the quality of life.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD S. ELSTER

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a distinguished career at the Naval Postgraduate School will soon come to an end. Mr. Richard Elster has announced his official retirement after 37 years of service.

After receiving his bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota in 1962, Richard pursued his M.S. in Industrial Relations, and his PhD in Industrial Psychology. By 1967, Richard had finished with school and become a project scientist at Litton Industries.

Dr. Elster became associated with the Naval Postgraduate School in 1969 when he joined the faculty as an assistant professor. During his tenure, he served as an associate professor, professor, Chairman of the Department of Administrative Sciences, Dean of Instruction, and the Provost and Academic Dean.

Throughout his career at Naval Postgraduate School, Dr. Elster served in several high ranking Pentagon positions. Starting in 1975, he served as special advisor to the Secretary of Defense for manpower and reserve affairs. Dr. Elster also held positions as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Resource Management and Support.

Dr. Elster was recognized for meritorious civilian service as Provost and Academic Dean at the Naval Postgraduate School, from July 1995 to December 2005. Because of his leadership, the Naval Postgraduate School attained unprecedented stature in the defense establishment and the academic community. It was recognized in 2005 with the highest score for military value of all Department of Defense education commands by the Education and Training Joint Cross Service Group.

The Naval Postgraduate School is respected as a world class research university due in part to Dr. Elster's leadership, strategic vision, and devotion to public service. Much of the academic work of the school's students and faculty responds directly to real world defense mission needs.

As Dr. Richard S. Elster prepares for retirement, I know the Members of the House will join me in expressing appreciation for his dedication to the Naval Postgraduate School and will wish him well in all the days ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, on July 12, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote Nos. 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, and 369.

Rollcall vote No. 364 was on ordering the previous question. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote No. 365 was on agreeing to the resolution. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote No. 366 was on a motion to instruct conferees. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall vote No. 367 was on the Kanjorski of Pennsylvania substitute amendment. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall vote No. 368 was on final passage of H.R. 2990, the Credit Rating Agency Duopoly Relief Act. Had I been present, I would have voted, "yea."

Rollcall vote No. 369, was on the motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CITY OF HICKORY CREEK RANKED IN TOP TEN

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a community within my district for being acknowledged as one of the "Top Ten Best Places to Live in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex" by D Magazine, a regional monthly publication. This top honor went to the town of Hickory Creek for its excellent schools, affordable housing, low crime rates, and its small town ambience.

Every 2 years, the magazine ranks some fifty plus suburbs of the Dallas-Fort Worth region, the State of Texas' largest metropolitan area. The town of Hickory Creek received the number nine spot on the list and is also recognized as a place for "quiet, hassle-free, safe living." Also worth mentioning, the town of Hickory Creek was acknowledged as having the "best value for quality of life." For this, it received the honor of the first spot on list of "Best Deals" in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex as rated by D Magazine.

With a population of 2,400 and an annual growth rate of 1.5 percent, the town of Hickory Creek is the smallest suburb to make the Top Ten. In 1996, the town's annual sales tax revenue was \$30,000. Today, that number is closer to \$1 million.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Mayor John Smith and the City Council of Hickory Creek for building the town of Hickory Creek into a distinguished community. I am proud to represent such a vibrant place to live.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL MICHAEL M. DUNN

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a distinguished career has come to an end. LTG Michael M. Dunn is retiring from the U.S. Air Force.

Lieutenant General Dunn received his Bachelor of Science degree in astrodynamics from the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO, in 1972. After graduating fourth in his class in June 1972, General Dunn flew the F-106 at Castle Air Force Base, CA. Following various duties in Washington, DC, Florida, and Alabama, he transitioned to the F-15, which he flew in the Far East. He is a command pilot with more than 2,500 flying hours.

In 1976, he went to the Squadron Officer School and later received his Master of Science degree in systems management at the University of Southern California in 1981. In 1983, he attended the Air Command and Staff College in Maxwell AFB, AL, and three years later attended the Air War College. In 1989, Lieutenant General Dunn attended the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, DC.

Lieutenant General Dunn commanded the 1st Operations Group at Langley Air Force Base, VA. He was the Senior Military Fellow and is currently a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He has served in four joint tours, including the Headquarters U.S. European Command, the Office of the Deputy Secretary of Defense, the Headquarters United Nations Command and U.S. Forces Korea, and the Joint Staff. In Korea, he was the lead negotiator with the North Korean Army at P'anmunjom.

Most recently, Lieutenant General Dunn served as president of National Defense University. He has provided strong leadership, coordinating the several schools with the National Defense University. During his tenure, the professional military education of our military made great strides forward.

Lieutenant General Dunn's awards and decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, with oak leaf cluster, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, with three oak leaf clusters, and Air Force Commendation Medal, with two oak leaf clusters.

Throughout his career, LTG Michael M. Dunn has served the Nation well. I am certain that my colleagues will join me in wishing Lieutenant General Dunn all the best in all the days ahead.

SUPPORTING INTELLIGENCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS TO TRACK TERRORISTS AND TERRORIST FINANCES

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, last week when we voted on H. Res. 895, a

resolution condemning the disclosure of classified information, and more specifically, the information about our government's monitoring of international financial transactions, I voted in opposition to the measure, and I would like to take this opportunity to explain my position.

I join my colleague from Massachusetts, Mr. FRANK, and others in supporting an alternative resolution, H. Res. 900, which also condemns the unauthorized disclosure of classified information, but does so in a way that is less partisan and more ingenious. H. Res. 895 contains a number of statements that are passed off as fact but whose veracity is dubious and not substantiated through congressional inquiry.

I regret that the majority saw fit to bring a resolution to the floor which deprived Democrats from providing any input into the framing of the measure. I do think that it was possible to produce a bin behind which both parties could unite, if the majority were interested in reaching a consensus. Obviously, it was not interested in forging a consensus statement, so we debated a political document instead of substantive initiative.

H. Res. 895, as written, states facts, which frankly, are either in substantial dispute or subject to question. For example, did the news media inappropriately and illegally disclose information regarding the SWIFT financial monitoring program, or was this information in the public domain? There are credible people "in the know" who claim the information was publicly available if anyone cared to conduct a little research.

According to one former State Department diplomat and U.N. monitor, the information on the SWIFT financial transaction monitoring program was incorporated in a report to the U.N. Security Council in 2002 and is available on the U.N. website. The SWIFT program has been in the public domain for quite some time.

Additionally, the resolution contains a clause that the appropriate committees in Congress were notified of the program. As we heard during the debate on the bill, that is another fact in dispute by Democrats who serve on the Select Committee on Intelligence.

I, therefore, voted against H. Res. 895 and announce my support for the alternative introduced by Mr. FRANK, which the majority has seen fit to deny us the opportunity to consider.

TRIBUTE TO NOAH'S ARK ANIMAL WELFARE ASSOCIATION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Noah's Ark Animal Welfare Association. This summer, Noah's Ark Animal Welfare Association celebrates its 40th Anniversary of caring for animals in a sheltered environment.

Eight very kind-hearted women from Morris County started Noah's Ark in 1966 with hopes of curtailing the pet overpopulation problem and promoting animal welfare. Noah's Ark provides homeless animals with a clean and comfortable living environment, food, veterinary care, and lots of warm attention. Under no circumstances are any of the animals taken to Noah's Ark subject to euthanization.

Since 1966, life expectancy for animals has increased significantly thanks to more specialized food and improved health care. Comprehensive spay and neuter operations have expanded dramatically. With these improvements in the quality of life for animals comes an increase in cost of caring for a pet! Noah's Ark continues to be an instrumental resource for those families that can no longer afford to keep their pets.

Thanks to the hospitable residents of Northern Jersey, thousands of animals have been saved in the past 40 years. By selflessly opening their homes to wonderful cats and dogs and generously offering monetary donations, a very supportive network of donors and volunteers have helped Noah's Ark to grow.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in applauding the impressive efforts of the Noah's Ark Animal Welfare Association over the past 40 years and for their fine example of service to our community.

RECOGNIZING THE HEROIC FEATS OF SPECIALIST TOM HOY, OREGON ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, the late Arthur Ashe once said, "True heroism is remarkably sober, very undramatic. It is not the urge to surpass all others at any cost, but the urge to serve others at whatever cost."

With that in mind, I rise today to recognize a heroic event that took place in the heart of Oregon's 2nd Congressional District on Sunday, July 10, 2006. On that day, a member of our Nation's military gave selfless service to three children in danger—and in the process saved a life.

Specialist Tom Hoy is a member of the Oregon Army National Guard, 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team. On July 10th, 2006, he was with three fellow soldiers participating in recruiting activities near the Deschutes River in Bend, Oregon.

While near the river, Specialist Hoy observed three children on inner-tubes, with no life jackets, who were floating downstream, dangerously near a spillway.

A spillway creates a perilous setting. A woman was reported as having drowned near this spillway the day before, and another woman had to be pulled from it unconscious several days before that.

What Specialist Hoy saw was at least one of the children appearing to be in distress. The soldiers directed the three children to come to shore, and the two older boys were able to. But the third child, a young girl no older than six or seven years old, was too far out and appeared to be crying and frightened. Specialist Hoy told the girl to grab onto some weeds that were growing out of the water and instructed another soldier to stay on the near side of the river in case she let go and made it near that side. Hoy then ran upstream, crossed a bridge, and ran back down the opposite bank, jumping several fences, until he reached the girl's location. Without any concern for his personal safety, Specialist Hoy entered the waist deep, swift-moving water and was able to

have the girl climb onto his back where he carried her to safety. Hoy, the other soldiers, and one civilian then returned the girl to her overjoyed parents.

Specialist Hoy is a resident of Prineville, Oregon, where he resides with his wife, Jennifer, and their children. He remains a dedicated public servant. In addition to his continued role protecting our Nation, he is a reserve police officer with the Prineville Police Department.

I myself am proud to represent Specialist Hoy in the House of Representatives. I urge my colleagues to applaud his selfless act of service as a way of urging others to follow the example set by this real life hero.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN VICTOR J. VAN HEEST FOR 27 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE U.S. NAVY

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Captain Victor J. Van Heest for his service as a member of the United States Navy on the occasion of his retirement after 27 years of military service.

Captain Van Heest is a native of my hometown of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and currently serves as Senior Military Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. After attending Michigan State University, where he graduated in 1979 with a degree in mechanical engineering, Captain Van Heest was commissioned in the U.S. Navy in August 1979. He was designated a Naval Aviator in 1980 after completing flight school.

He has served in many different posts around the country and world and has been deployed to the Mediterranean Sea and the Persian Gulf during his career. Furthermore, he continued his education, earning a Master of Science in Administration degree from Central Michigan University in 1999, and graduating from the Air War College in 1996. His personal awards include the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), the Navy Commendation Medal, and the Navy Achievement Medal (three awards).

Upon graduation from the Air War College, he transferred to VR-48, NAF Washington, DC, as the Executive Officer and in April 1997 assumed command of the squadron. During this time, the "Capital Skyliners," who fly the C-20G aircraft, won the Battle 'E' for C-9 and C-20 squadrons.

Following his command tour, he reported to the Director of Air Warfare staff at the Pentagon as the Transport Aircraft Coordinator. One year later, he transferred to the Director of Naval Reserve staff as the Head, Reserve Air Logistics Programs and then fleeted up to Director, Air Programs Management Division.

Assuming command of Fleet Logistics Support Wing in July 2001, he led the Airwing during Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. He relinquished command in July 2003 having accumulated more than 5,700 flight hours in Navy aircraft.

Captain Van Heest and his wife, Anne, reside with their sons, Peter and Andrew, in Annapolis, Maryland. Their oldest son, Kyle, is a Midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis. Upon his retirement, the Van Heests